The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

"NO-PARTY" CAMPAIGN BRINGING RESULTS

Washington, June 5.—Intensive state-wide non-partisan political campaigns are now being waged in 32 states by the American Federation of Labor. In addition to this, energetic local campaigns are under way in practically all of the remaining states.

There are senatorial elections in the 32 states where organized state-wide efforts are being made. The records of senators in all of those states are in the hands of the central labor bodies, non-partisan campaign committees and local unions. These records disclose the manner in which senators voted on measures of interest to labor and are calculated to place before the voters the fact about those senators who are seeking re-election.

In at least 13 states there are intensive campaigns under way in important congressional districts and the number will increase as the campaign advances.

Reports from all sources indicate a greater enthusiasm than has ever marked labor's political activity. Committees are being organized at the rate of 100 per day. Typical of reports received is one from Ohio reporting a convention of representatives of central labor bodies from over 40 cities, with the executive council of the state federation of labor, in which the non-partisan campaign was enthusiastically endorsed.

Reports of success already achieved promise much for the future. There is every indication that the people are alert and determined. America is a nation where progress is natural and where reaction cannot long persist. November will mark the turning point.

"The masses of our people realize the danger that confronts the republic as a result of the legislative reaction and inefficiency. Everywhere the determination is being made clear to defeat those who have betrayed the people, and to return to the next congress men who will understand the needs of the people, and whose records are guarantees that they will remain faithful.'

MEETING OF EDUCATORS.

Washington, June 5.—When the state superintendents of 30 states met here to discuss the needs of the educational departments of their respective states, United States Commissioner of Education Claxton said:

"The great American public must decide quickly whether it wants universal education or not. Latest figures obtained by the federal bureau of education show that between 300,000 and 400,000 children in the United States last year were without schooling. Approximately 70 per cent of the people of the United States left school at 14 years of age and 40 per cent did not complete the eighth grade."

Delegates from various states submitted reports on the shortage of teachers ranging from a deficit of 400 in the case of Indiana to 1,700 in California. Only Massachusetts reported a normal supply of instructors.

The organized labor movement has always stood for absolutely free public school education, including free text books. The solution of the problem of the children out of school is to increase real wages to the point where wage earners can give their children a thorough education, enact an effective national child labor law, and then enforce the compulsory school attendance laws now cluttering the statute graveyards of every state.

HIGH SALARIED MEN.

New York, June 5.—One of the highest salaried men in America was discovered when W. H. La Boyteaux, president of Johnson & Higgins, insurance brokers at 49 Wall street, admitted that the company last year paid him $161,543 for his services. It was brought out that George C. Coe, vice president of the concern, received the same salary.

The admission came in the trial of the suit of Thomas J. Prindville of Chicago, a stockholder, to recover dividends. The complaintant also asks that the corporation be enjoined from paying excessive salaries.

One official said the annual turnover in the transactions of the company was between $75,000,000 and $100,000,000 in premiums and adjustment money. Salaries, he explained, are based on the business done by each member of the board of directors and at the annual meeting of the board one-half the profits are set aside for salaries and then distributed on a percentage basis.

FOODSTUFF PRICES HIGHER.

Washington, June 5. — Coincident with additional reports of nationwide price cutting, the department of labor's bureau of labor statistics announces that food stuff prices between March 15 and April 15 showed the greatest increase of any 30-day period since April, 1915.

Reports from retailers in 51 cities, the bureau said, showed that in the 30 days dating from March 15, prices for 22 common articles of food advanced 5 per cent and reached the highest point on record.

The bureau reported an average increase during April of more than 4 per cent in wholesale prices of various commodities. Cloths and clothing was the only group showing a decrease.

BEAN TARIFF URGED.

Washington, June 5.—A bill has been reported to the house favorably by the ways and means committee that increases the tariff on beans 350 per cent, from 25 cents to $1.20 per bushel. The measure was opposed on the ground that it would increase the cost of living. The plea of the bean growers of California, is that unless they are given the protection named the Japanese growers will put them out of business.

WON WAGE ADVANCE.

Paris, France, June 5.—Six thousand employes of the book printing industry have won the following wage increases after a six weeks' strike: Apprentices under 16 years, both sexes, 15 centimes per hour; apprentices, 16 to 18 years, 20 centimes; adult female employes, 25 centimes; adult male employes, 40 centimes.

150 PER CENT DIVIDEND.

Akron, O., June 5.—The Goodyear Tire and Rubber company declared a stock dividend of 150 per cent to common stockholders. No reference is made to amount of dividends allotted to preferred stockholders. The dividend specified totals $31,133,255.

ALLEN DIDN'T SWITCH GOMPERS ON NEW LINE

New York, June 5.—Governor Allen failed to switch President Gompers from his line of attack in their joint debate on the Kansas "can't-strike" law in this city.

The governor attempted to divert the discussion away from the handcuff law, but his opponent refused to fall into the trap.

This was the series of questions that the governor asked President Gompers to answer:

"When a dispute between capital and labor brings on a strike affecting the production or distribution of the necessaries of life, thus threatening the public peace and impairing the public health, has the public any right in such a controversy, or is it a private war between capital and labor?

"If you answer this question in the affirmative, Mr. Gompers, how would you protect the rights of the public?

"And, in addition, I wish him to define for us, if he will, who had the divine right to forbid the switchmen to strike in their outlaw strike; who controls this divine right to quit work?"

President Gompers refused to permit Governor Allen to change the purpose of the meeting by injecting other solutions or views. The trade unionist declared he would answer the question in his own way and in his own time.

TO ABOLISH CHILD LABOR.

Washington, June 5.—To abolish child labor not merely by prohibiting employment, but by providing suitable education is the aim of the stay-in-school campaign now being carried on or just completed in 20 states in cooperation with the children's bureau of the department of labor. The campaign will be followed in the fall by a back-to-school drive in order to round up the children who failed to report at the opening of school. An encouraging feature of the campaign is that six of the states taking part in it are among the ten in which more than 20 per cent of all the children between 10 and 15 years of age are regularly engaged in agricultural work. In three of the six states taking part in the stay-in-school campaign, the percentage of illiterates over 10 years of age represent one-fifth of the total population. Moving pictures and slides are being utilized in some places to show the harmful effects of too early work and the advantages of schooling.

2,000,000 BABIES DIE.

Washington, June 5.—The children's bureau of the federal department of labor says that the infant death rate of India is more than twice as high as that of England.

"Almost 2,000,000 babies under one year of age die annually in India, and at least half of these deaths are preventable," it is stated. "Hundreds of thousands of women lose their lives from child bed fever, yet we know that this fever is almost entirely preventable. Many children, improperly fed and cared for, grow up weak and helpless only to be a drag upon the community."

The bureau states that a maternity and infant welfare exhibition was recently held in Delhi, India. The exhibition lasted one month and much valuable information was disseminated regarding the care of mothers and babies and the responsibility of the community for the well-being of its citizens.

MARKETING EXPENSIVE.

Washington, June 5.—Waste in transporting and wholesale marketing of food is a vital element contributing to the high cost of living, declares the federal trade commission in a report on the wholesale marketing of food. The commission's theory is that competition among food sellers will reflect in retail prices all economies resulting from losses due to wasteful methods of handling.

The policy of the American Federation of Labor recommends the establishment of Rochedale cooperative wholesale and retail stores to guarantee the reflection of all economies in distribution by selling the workers their necessaries of life at net cost plus the sales expense.

LEVER ACT IS DENTED.

Indianapolis, June 5. — Federal Judge Anderson has ruled against several sections of the Lever food control act, and has upheld section 9. When the Lever act was before congress it was agreed that it did not apply to strikers, but since then section 9 has been used against strikers.

The sections of the law that Judge Anderson rejects include section 4, which makes the wilful destruction of necessaries for the purpose of enhancing prices unlawful. The court held that section 4 was faulty because it did not contain any penalty for violation.

TO PROHIBIT R. R. STRIKES.

Washington, June 5.—Strikes by employes of common carriers would be prohibited by the terms of a bill reported favorably to the senate by the senate interstate commerce committee.

The report was presented by Senator Poindexter, its sponsor. It would prohibit lockouts and strikes and contains virtually the same provisions as were stricken from the legislation returning the railroads to their private owners following a vigorous campaign on the part of the railroad brotherhood and the American Federation of Labor which resulted in its defeat.

INTERESTS IDENTICAL.

Paris, France, June 5. — The national congress of the college instructors' association has decided to affiliate with the General Confederation of Labor, the affiliation resolution receiving 346 votes against 42. The congress declared that the interests of the instructors are identical with the trade unionists.

TO START CO-OP. SHOP.

Cincinnati, June 5.—The union cigarmakers who were recently on strike have formed a company to operate a co-operative cigar factory. The company is to be capitalized at $50,000. The entire issue of stock will be in the hands of cigarmakers and packers and the company will be chartered under the laws of Ohio. It will be known as the Cigarmakers' Co-Operative company, and its product will bear the name "Cigmaco."

GOVERNOR ALLEN ROUTED IN JOINT DEBATE

New York, June 5.—The campaign of Henry P. Allen, governor of Kansas, in favor of his "can't-strike" law, was side-tracked by President Gompers in their joint debate in this city.

The governor has been well press-agented on a rabble-rousing speech that he has been delivering to business men's organizations in the east, but his show was run into a blind siding by President Gompers, who tore to shreds the oratory so common at Citizens' Alliance gatherings 15 years ago.

"We don't take away a worker's divine right to quit work," thundered the Kansas man. "We want to take away Mr. Gompers' divine right to order men to quit work."

The Allen partisans cheered. And every one present who has the slightest knowledge of trade union methods hooted and laughed.

Mammoth Carnegie hall was packed to the roof when Hon. Alton B. Parker, acting as chairman, introduced President Gompers as the first speaker.

In this trade unionist's long career he was never given such an ovation. Up from the main floor to the first, second and third balconies, and to the top gallery, and then downward, across the immense stage, roars of acclaim broke again and again against the rear wall of the great auditorium. It was a tribute and an inspiration accorded few men. And it was answered in kind by the labor chieftain.

The trade unionist was aggressive and confident and consumed his time discussing human liberty, in defining the terms "capital" and "labor" and citing history to show that the Kansas act is as old as the proverbial hills.

"Our opponents," he said, "confuse capital and labor. Capital is what one has; labor is what one is.

"Those who seek a royal road to tranquillity should go back to the long ago, when men's ears were cut off when they refused to work. For the second offense they were branded and for the third offense they were hanged. There are some things worse than strikes, and among them is a degraded manhood. A virile manhood is the vanguard of civilization.

"In all ages there has been struggle. All the efforts of old to suppress have failed, and the attempt to renew these laws will meet the fate of former edicts by judges and kings.

"We don't need liberty to sing 'The Star Spangled Banner.' Liberty is the right to own yourself. The man who is a slave or a serf has no liberty."

President Gompers referred to Lincoln's approval of this country's recognition of the workers' right to strike.

"I prefer," said the speaker, "to align myself with the martyred Lincoln than with any reactionary who favors compulsory arbitration."

The Allenites were silent and their opponents cheered. When the roar was dying down another stampede was started by this leather-lunged howl from out of the deep cavern: "That's tellin' 'em, Sammy."

President Gompers took no middle ground on the question of a man's right to own himself. He declared unqualifiedly for the workers' right to strike, and called the Kansas act "an un-American slave law." He showed that through the strike the worker can impress his demands upon an employer, and how the strike abolished the sweat shops in this state when the law had failed to even minimize this evil. He denounced as a subterfuge the claim that men have the right to quit work as individuals under the Kansas law, and declared that the only ground on which Governor Allen can claim to be right is that our democracy is a failure.

"This is not an industrial government, it is a political government," said the speaker. "We are sovereign citizens. The right to own ourselves cannot be taken from us by government or by court."

President Gompers discussed principles and history. Governor Allen talked on generalities and incidents mainly connected with the Kansas coal miners' strike of last November. Not once did he strike a fundamental note. He said the Kansas law was based on the theory that "no one unit of production has the right to disturb production." President Gompers had referred to this theory and showed where it would eventually lead if rigidly applied, and how the legislature, in passing the law, had turned its blind eye to the profiteers. Governor Allen ignored this challenge, but consumed much time in painting oral pictures of three or four incidents that he said were associated with the miners' strike. These pictures were equally well painted in the Citizen's Alliance literature that flooded the country several years ago.

The governor ignored the principle involved in the Kansas law. In fact, he seemed blind to principle, for he asked: "Why did union officials start to fight this law before they read it?"

Then he painted another picture of a miner who didn't know why he was on strike; who returned to his employment; who was suspended by his local for 99 years; whose family was starving, and how he (the governor) "went down there and secured work for the miner's wife."

Then the governor told how the executives of the four railroad brotherhoods sat in the galleries in congress with stop watches to force the passage of the Adamson law. This yarn has been repeatedly denied by the brotherhood officials who have shown that they never asked for the law and did not raise their voice in its behalf. This yarn has been one of the governor's most effective rabble rousers. In this case it fell flat and the governor painted more pictures and talked about justice and brotherhood.

The great organ thundered the notes of "America" and the audience was dismissed. Every trade unionist and sympathizer who could not shake President Gompers' hands, shook his own hands and marveled at what a low plane American statesmanship and journalism has fallen when the ages-old scheme of handcuffing workers to their jobs is being advocated in a land dedicated to freedom.

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS.

Washington, June 5.—The United States supreme court has ruled that proposed amendments to the federal constitution cannot be submitted to a referendum in states which have referendum provisions in their constitutions. The supreme court holds that when a state legislature ratifies an amendment to the constitution, this is a complete act and is not subject to the referendum. The court said the constitution provides that the legislature shall act on these amendments.

The court has upheld the Non-partisan league legislature of North Dakota in a decision which gives that state power to engage in business heretofore looked upon as private. The legislature passed laws providing for bond issues to establish a state bank, build homes, establish grain elevators, etc. The supreme court has upheld the state's right to engage in these activities.

The court has declared void that portion of the war revenue act which provides that the president and all federal judges shall pay an income tax on their salaries. Under the decision moneys paid by the president and these judges will be refunded. The suit was originally started by Federal Judge Evans of Louisville, Ky., who contended that the federal constitution prohibited judges' "salaries being diminished during continuance in office." The supreme court's majority opinion held that such tax could be gradually increased until the entire salary was taken. The decision was one of the longest rendered by the court in recent years. Justices Holmes and Brandeis dissented from the majority opinion.

GIRLS ABOLISH BONUS.

York, Pa., June 5.—Twenty-four girls employed in the New York Wall Paper mill walked out in protest against the practice of the firm in docking them $2 a week in addition to lost time. The stoppage resulted in a loss of three hours for the girls in addition to the complete closing of the mill. Their action resulted in the firm agreeing to add the $2 to their regular pay and the abolition of the bonus system and also payment for three hours lost as a result of the strike. The firm had been enforcing the fining system for some time under the guise of the bonus which was only granted when they had not been late for a stipulated time fixed arbitrarily by the firm.

WAGE INCREASES GAINED.

Spokane, Wash., June 5.—May-day brought to more than 1,000 union labor people in Spokane wage increases ranging from 50 cents to $1 a day. A large number of employers of various crafts signed up with the unions to pay the new scales, the unions dealing with every employer individually.

Following are the unions granted increases, the number of members benefited and the amount of increase: Cooks and Waiters, 475 receiving increases of 50 cents to $1 a day; new wages from $2.50 to $5.50 a day. Bakers, 245 receiving increases of $1 a day; new wages from $2.50 to $7 a day. Teamsters and chauffeurs, 550 receiving increase of 65 cents a day; new scale $6 a day. Steam engineers, 125 receiving increase of $1 a day; new scale $5.50 and $6.50 a day. Bricklayers, 200 receiving increase of $1 a day; new wage $10 a day.

FUR WORKERS STRIKE.

New York, June 5.—Several thousand fur workers quit their employment to enforce equitable working conditions. The unionists are not asking for wage adjustments, but insist on a plan that will equalize work in this seasonal trade. The strike was on but a few hours when many employers began negotiating on the new basis.

WORKING FIVE DAYS WEEK.

Seattle, Wash., June 5.—Bricklayers are receiving $10 per day and working five days a week. All members of the union are employed, the short time making that possible.

Utica, N. Y., June 5.—Bricklayers' union No. 19 made a settlement with the contractors on a basis of $1.12½ per hour.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Sacramento, Cal., June 5.—Printers employed in the state printing office have secured a wage increase of 8½ per cent, or an advance from $39 a week to $42.50.

Waco, Texas, June 5.—The Typographical union has abandoned its piece work system, which has prevailed in this city for many years. The new newspaper scale calls for 95 cents an hour for day work and $1 an hour for night work.

JUDGE GARY'S TWO SIDES.

New York, June 5.—Free speech and assemblage is denied in western Pennsylvania steel towns, but this was ignored by Judge Gary of the steel trust in his plea for law and the constitution at a meeting of the American iron and steel institute, held in this city.

Without the slightest trace of humor, the judge gave this advice to his associates: "You must observe the principles of the constitution, and the provisions of the laws."

The judge said the burdens of taxation are "almost unbearable" and expressed alarm because, he said, "vicious men, mostly foreigners," are creating unrest, dissatisfaction and antagonisms. He did not say who was responsible for the presence of these foreigners, he made no reference to conditions which make unrest possible, nor did he allude to the recent wholesale arrest of trade unionists in Duquesne, Pennsylvania, when an attempt was made to hold an open meeting in that steel bailiwick.

All these were ignored by the judge. But he was very severe on "agitators" and made a stern demand for law and the constitution.

REFUSED CONCESSION.

Rock Island, Ill., June 5.—The 1,200 union carpenters composing the Carpenters' District council of this city, Moline and Davenport discontinue work when the Quade City Builders' association refused to concede an increase to $1 an hour. The work under contract by that association is completely tied up. An effort is being made by the contractors to lead the public to believe that the union carpenters have violated a verbal agreement that had been made previously, but with little success. The three months' notice called for in writing was given on February 15 to terminate May 15. When no adjustment could be reached the carpenters terminated their work. The hod carriers and building laborers are also on strike, being refused an advance.

WORKERS' ANNUAL TOLL.

New York, June 5.—There are 2,000,000 industrial accidents in the United States annually. Each of more than 700,000 industrial workers loses more than four weeks every year as a result of industrial accidents. There are at least 22,500 industrial deaths annually in this country and our industries turn out each year 15,000 workmen suffering from permanent disability. These figures are given to the Journal of the American Medical association by R. M. Little, of the Safety Institute of America. The United States bureau of labor estimates that 450,000,000 days' time is lost every year by 50,000,000 workers in this country on account of sickness.

GIVEN WAGE ADVANCES.

Hamilton, Ontario, June 5.—Electrical Workers' union made a settlement with the contractors at 85 cents an hour, 5 cents less than they had demanded. The union plumbers and steam fitters accepted 85 cents, having asked $1 per hour. Hoisting engineers went on strike for 90 cents and $1.15 per hour. The Sheet Metal Workers' union has rejected an offer of 85 cents an hour with a non-union shop.

A board of conciliation gave the electrical workers of the Dominion Power and Transmission company 20 per cent increase and the yardmen and shopmen 15 per cent.

DEFEAT IMPOSSIBILISTS.

Paris, France, June 5.—The impossibilist minority in the national council of the General Confederation of Labor secured but 20 votes out of a total of 112 in favor of their resolution demanding that the 24-hour May day general strike should be indefinitely prolonged, with the object of applying the principle of "exclusive control of labor organizations over production and exchange."

STRIKERS GET ADVANCE.

Springfield, O., June 5.—By the settlement of a strike, union iron molders secure 80 cents an hour until August 1. From that date the rate will be 87 1-2 cents an hour.

WIN EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Bayfield, Wis., June 5. — Organized timber workers at this place and at Deer River, Minn., have secured the eight-hour day with no wage reduction.

WOMAN LABOR BUREAU VOTED

Washington, June 5.—Congress has approved a bill which creates a woman's bureau in the department of labor. The bureau will promote the welfare of wage-earning women.

WANTS WAGES REDUCED.

New York, June 5.—Henry Abbott, manufacturer and a director of the national association of manufacturers, declares that the workers must prepare to accept a reduction in wages, that having been determined at the recent meeting of that body in this city. He declares that each member was told that he must work out his own method of reaching that end. He did not say that the policy agreed upon will have the moral and financial assistance of the entire membership of that association. If that understanding was not reached, what other purpose has it for existence. Now that he has served warning on the workers, with the sanction of his association, it is high time the workers should prepare to meet the emergency by getting into the various unions and insist on being consulted as to whether they will submit to the autocratic orders he has assumed to issue. In telling his story he says:

"Values are going to find their own level rapidly. And they are going to drag the high price of union labor—one of the things which has held them up—right along down with them."

"The manufacturers will not have hard tasks because like a row of bricks on end, if one falls the other comes down with a crash.

"We realize well enough that labor will not voluntarily accept a lower wage. But labor will do so when labor gets hungry. And these wages will not be set by the labor unions, either."

KANSAS IDEA IN SOUTH.

Baton Rouge, La., June 5.—The Kansas "can't-strike" law has found its way into the legislature of this state. Its sponsor is a representative of Washington parish, the home of the Great Southern Lumber company. This concern is one of the largest of its kind in the world. Last November, during a strike of its employes, a gang of company thugs opened fire on the trade union headquarters at Bogalusa, and five workers were killed. No indictments have been returned by the grand jury. It is now proposed to abolish the state bureau of labor and industrial statistics and set up a Kansas court of industrial relations, whose members shall be appointed by the governor and who shall have full power to set wages and outlaw strikes.

WHY SUGAR IS HIGH.

New York, June 5. — Evidence adduced by the Lusk legislative committee, investigating the high cost of living, revealed the fact that a syndicate of bankers have loaned the Cuban sugar planters $250,000,000 on their 1920 crop. This money is being used to hold up the price of sugar to the American consumer. Among the banks named as loaning money is the National City Bank (owned and controlled by the steel trust and the Standard Oil) through its Havana branch, at the rate of from 8 to 14 cents a pound of sugar. Some banks have loaned $25 a bag, while others have gone as high as $56 a bag. A bag of sugar weighs about 320 pounds.

LABOR NOT SCARCE.

New York, June 5. — A. L. Rose, director of City College student employment office, takes issue with the farm shortage reports. He says:

"The talk about the shortage of farm labor and the consequent scarcity of food is being discounted at this college. We have 350 students, 80 of whom are experienced farm workers. They have applied for farm work, but to date we have had not one demand for such labor.

"We are beginning to believe there is more talk than fact in these stories about the shortage of labor."

AFFILIATION DESIRED.

Paris, France, June 5.—The battle of the teachers' unions for affiliation with the General Confederation of Labor was an issue in the election of the teacher members of the board of education of the department of the Seine. The teachers are entitled to 12 members, six men and six women. The men teachers elected four affiliationists out of six members. The women teachers voted against affiliation.

GAIN $1 AN HOUR.

Cincinnati, June 5.—The union plumbers were pleasantly surprised when the contracting plumbers made the announcement that they had determined to advance wages to $1 per hour, effective immediately.

ELECTRICIANS WINNING.

Hamilton, Ontario, June 5.—Several of the leading electrical contractors have made a settlement with the men who have been holding out against the effort to destroy the Electrical Workers' union, and have granted a wage rate of 90 cents an hour.

FARMERS' CO-OP. FAVORED.

Washington, June 5. — By a vote of 234 to 58, the house declared in favor of collective bargaining and co-operation by farmers. The secretary of agriculture shall sit in judgment over the farmers' acts. If the cabinet official believes the farmers are liable to take a hint from the steel trust or the meat packers, he can order them to desist, and if they refuse the matter will be turned over to the department of justice, who may secure a permanent injunction against the horny sons of toil. The bill permits the farmers to act together in associations with or without capital stock. No member of such association shall have more than one vote. Farmers' associations having capital stock are not included in the Clayton law.

Advocates of the new legislation stated that now the farmer receives one-fourth of what he produces, with the remaining three-fourths going to transportation companies and to the brokers and wholesale and retail merchants. Opponents of the bill were told that they could spend their time with profit in urging legislation that would compel monster corporations to pay into the treasury a portion of their enormous war profits that have been made during the past few years.

RECORD COAL PRICES.

Baltimore, June 5.—The cost of bituminous and gas coals to the consumers has reached the highest price in the history of the industry. Coal operators in Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia are making the greatest "killings" on record, according to a local coal man. The ruling price here was from $8.50 to $10 for soft coal and $10.50 to $11.50 for gas coal f. o. b. Nothing like the present condition was ever known in the trade. Five years ago the price was from $5 to $6, and it has never attained the latter price since until the last two months. Bunker coal for steamships is commanding as high as $14 in the harbor. This condition, the coal dealer said, is not caused by the railroads, but is the result of consumers not ordering, and the surplus is being sold to European buyers. What they are getting should be going to the northwest.

WOOLEN TRUST INDICTED.

New York, June 5.—The American woolen company, known as the woolen trust, has been indicted by a federal grand jury on the charge of profiteering. Government officials state that besides enormous salaries received by Mr. Wood from two companies, last year he received $515,842.86 in commissions. This is charged as a part of the manufacturing and selling expense of the goods.

Last year Mr. Wood declared that prices of living must come down. He protested against Lawrence, Mass., merchants raising prices. Mr. Wood's protest, however, did not include woolen goods.

WANT UNION SHOP.

Milwaukee, Wis., June 5.—The representatives of Painters' union No. 781, speaking for the men who are on strike for union shop, because the painter contractors refuse to sign an agreement, declared: "Employers are willing to pay 85 cents an hour now when they need the men, but unless we have signed agreements, we have no assurance that this wage will prevail after the spring rush is over. We must have the protection of a collective bargain for our men, and this is what the strike is for."

Utica, N. Y., June 5.—The strike of the painters and paperhangers has been adjusted. The painters get 91 cents an hour and paperhangers 96 cents.

BLACKSMITHS WIN RAISE.

Fresno, Cal., June 5. — After a two-weeks' strike, the members of the Blacksmiths' union made a settlement which gives first-class mechanics $8 a day and second-class mechanics $7; first-class helpers will receive $6 and second-class $5, eight hours to constitute a day's work.

MINIMUM WAGE LAW UPHELD.

Washington, June 5.—The law fixing the wages of women and girls employed in District of Columbia hotels, restaurants, apartment houses, clubs and hospitals at $16.50 per week has been upheld by Justice Bailey in the district supreme court.

BAKERS MAKE GAINS.

Worcester, Mass., June 5.—After a two-weeks' strike organized bakers have adjusted differences with employers. The gains include a new wage scale, a 48-hour week, time and one-half for overtime and improved sanitary conditions.

U. S. ORGANIC ACT VIOLATED BY PALMER

Washington, June 5.—The United States constitution has been repeatedly violated by the department of justice is the charge of 12 well-known attorneys. Their claim is supported by numerous affidavits and exhibits, which are published by the national popular government league, Judson King, secretary, Washington.

The pamphlet is entitled "Report upon the illegal practices of the United States department of justice." One of the exhibits is the confidential instructions that were forwarded to the department's agents in New England who were to conduct the raids of January 2, 1920. Among other things, agents were ordered:

"Person or persons taken into custody not to be permitted to communicate with any outside person until after examination by this office and until permission is given by this office."

The department of justice and its agents are charged, after making illegal arrests without warrant, to question the accused person and to force admissions from him by terrorism, which admissions were subsequently to be used against him in deportation proceedings.

Copies of letters forwarded to magazines and country newspapers by Attorney General Palmer are included in the pamphlet. These letters were intended to prejudice public opinion in his favor, and in advance of court decisions, and to aid him in his campaign of repression.

In calling the attention of the American people to present policies of the attorney general's office, the attorneys says:

"It has always been the proud boast of America that this is a government of laws and not of men. Our constitution and laws have been based on the simple elements of human nature. Free men cannot be driven and repressed; they must be led. Free men respect justice and follow truth, but arbitrary power they will oppose until the end of time. There is no danger of revolution so great as that created by suppression, by ruthlessness, and by deliberate violation of the simple rules of American law and American decency.

"It is a fallacy to suppose that, any more than in the past, any servant of the people can safely arrogate to himself unlimited authority. To proceed upon such a supposition is to deny the fundamental American theory of the consent of the governed. Here is no question of a vague and threatened menace, but a present assault upon the most sacred principles of our constitutional liberty."

PROVING SUCCESSFUL.

New Orleans, La., June 5.—Desiring to obtain first-hand information as to facts and figures essential for business-like adjustments for its members, sheet metal workers have, since April 1, been conducting a shop of their own. The shop is operated under the identical conditions that are observed in other shops where members are working. The 44-hour week—a uniform rate of $1.00 per hour.

The shop is operating at the limit of its capacity and enlarged quarters are now being sought for. New work is secured on the same basis as private contractors secure their work, namely, by competitive bidding and personal solicitation.

While the venture is in the nature of an experiment, it is a financial success. The entire business is under the direction of a manager and a committee from the local union. Weekly reports are made to the union.

COMMON LABOR UNITING.

Phoenix, Ariz., June 5. — The work of organizing common labor in the Salt river valley is being pushed vigorously by representatives of the American Federation of Labor. During the last two months over 3,000 have been formed into six federal labor unions. The work of organizing will be extended to other parts of the state just as soon as efforts now being made are perfected in the valley. Federal unions are also being established in this city. It is claimed by the men pushing the work the number will be increased to 7,000 in the near future. The new unions are composed mostly of Mexicans, who are awakening to the benefits that result from united action.

TEACHERS PENALIZED.

York, Pa., June 5. — The school teachers have been demanding an increase in wages for several months past, but no consideration was given their demand by the school board. Their necessities becoming more pressing they affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers. As soon as that action was made known to the school board, 82 of them were dropped from the list of teachers for the coming term, 1920-21. The central labor union has already started a fight to have them reinstated. The action of the board has created considerable bitterness and there is a movement to call a public meeting to protest against the board's action and demand their reinstatement.

WAGES ADVANCED.

Pittsburg, June 5.—Effective June 1 the structural iron workers were granted $1.25 an hour, an advance of 25 cents; cement finishers increased from 82 1-2 cents an hour to $1.12 1-2; hoisting engineers from 90 cents an hour to $1.12 1-2. The bricklayers have secured $1.25 per hour, highest rate in the building industry in this city. All work over eight hours, Saturday half holiday, after midnight, Sundays and holidays will be paid for at the rate of double time.

ACCEPT BOARD'S AWARD.

Ottawa, Ontario, June 5.—The following building trades have accepted the award of a board of conciliation to which their demands for wage increases were submitted: Carpenters, 85 cents; electricians, 80 cents; painters, 75 cents; roofers, 70 cents per hour for each union. Electrician apprentices and roofers' laborers were given 55 cents an hour.

TEACHERS GET RAISE.

Seattle, Wash., June 5. — The school board has fixed the salaries of school teachers for the new year at $1,200 for new teachers; $2,000 for the elementary grade, and $2,[illegible] for high school instructors. The staff is composed of approximately 1,250, about 100 new teachers being added.

GOMPERS' ALERT MIND BESTS GOVERNOR ALLEN

New York, June 5.—The alert mind of President Gompers was in its element when he discussed the Kansas "can't-strike" law with Governor Allen of that state in this city.

The governor insisted that the law was as much against capitalists as laborers, and said when the act was being considered the capitalists favored it but they "wanted the law with the teeth all located on the lower jaw."

"But I am glad to tell you," continued the governor, "that when the law was finally framed, it had the teeth located on the upper jaw and on the lower jaw."

The Allen partisans cheered this illustration of the governor's impartiality, but President Gompers quickly "put the shoe on the other foot" by this reply:

"You know the lower jaw is that upon which the pressure is made. The lower jaw moves. The upper jaw is typical of these who have power and strength. The upper jaw does not move. It is stationary. It stands pat and crushes the lower jaw."

PACKERS' TOLL IS HEAVY.

Washington, June 5.—One-sixth of the income of the average consumer goes for products controlled either directly or indirectly by the big packing interests, according to a survey of profiteering by W. Jett Lauck. The report has been made in the interest of the railroad labor organizations and has been submitted to the United States railroad labor board.

"The average American family," said Mr. Lauck, "has been contributing during and since the war period from $200 to $500 a year to swell the gross returns of the 'big five' meat packers, namely the Swift, Armour, Morris, Wilson and Cudahy companies. While wages paid by these concerns increased 75 per cent, and the value of products only 100 per cent, the profits increased from 200 to 400 per cent, not only in dollars but also in rates of return on investment during and since the war.

"According to their own published figures the 'big five' earned between 1912 and 1918, $266,000,000 after all possible deductions, including those for excess profits and income taxes. This was nearly double their entire capital stock before the war. The profits for the war years average $55,000,000 a year, or nearly three times the pre-war average."

BUILDING TRADES WIN.

New Orleans, June 5.—The effort to destroy the local building trades unions has failed. The $15,000,000 building program will go forward unmolested. An agreement has been reached between the general contractors and representatives of the building trades which resulted in the acceptance of union wage scales and the right to organize all the men engaged in that industry, thereby insuring uninterrupted construction of buildings during its life. This understanding was arrived at after a meeting of the general contractors at which was present a representative of the building trades from Beaumont who explained what had resulted from the attempt to disrupt the unions in that city by the agents of the "union busters" who had been active in that section for several months past. After the non-union shop propagandists had failed to make any headway in Beaumont, they circularized this city with misleading bulletins, making their fight especially against the building trades unions.

FRENCH STRIKES END.

Paris, France, June 5.—In view of the immediate consideration in the chamber of deputies of the government's railroad reorganization bill, the General Confederation of Labor has called off the strikes it ordered in support of the general strike which the French Federation of railway employes declared May 1 to focus public and government attention on the federation's demand for nationalization of the railroads, the recognition of trade union rights and the abandonment of judicial proceedings against the trade unionists for the exercise of those rights.

In managing the strike the general confederation applied the principle of the quadruple alliance, calling out successively the railroad employes, the coal miners, the dockers and the marine workers. The government's bill does not meet the demands of the railway nationalizationists, but its immediate consideration by the chamber of deputies is regarded as a victory for the strikers.

WIN WAGE BOOST.

Melbourne, Australia, June 5.—The Marine Engineers' union has won a strike extending over a 10-weeks' period. Coast shipping was completely paralyzed. The men were granted a flat increase of $25 per month, with the determination of a further increase in the hands of a tribunal. The rates under the new agreement are: Chief engineer, $225; second engineer, $145; third engineer, $127; fourth engineer, $122, and juniors, $85.

BACK CIGAR STRIKE.

Washington, June 5.—The appeal of the Cigar Makers' International union to the trade union movement for financial assistance in behalf of Tampa's striking cigar makers has been indorsed by the A. F. of L. executive council. The strike involves several thousand workers who were compelled to quit work because of the employers' victimizing policy. The employers are supported by every anti-trade union influence in western Florida, and the Cigar Makers' International union urges the trade union movement to assist in this struggle.

GET 10 PER CENT RAISE.

Altoona, Pa., June 5.—As the result of negotiations between representatives of the union and the manager of the local street car company a flat increase of 10 per cent has been granted to all employes.

NEW ROOFERS' UNION.

Springfield, Ill., June 5.—Roofers' union No. 37 has been formed in this city composed of the employes of the leading roofing firms.